Shattered Lens: Part 3 – Putting Palestinians Behind Bars

BY **HONEST837REPORTING** - DECEMBER 12, 2010

Get Notifications

How the wire services use bars in their images to promote the Palestinian narrative of suffering and the impression of Palestinians as "prisoners" of Israeli brutality.

Our Findings:

- Wire service photographers use clever photographic techniques to present a false impression that enhances images of Palestinian "suffering".
- The use of bars in such images is a widespread method of portraying Palestinians as "prisoners" of Israeli occupation and brutality.

CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO THE SHATTERED LENS INTRODUCTION

CLICK HERE TO VIEW PART 1 – THE GAZA FLOTILLA

CLICK HERE TO VIEW PART 2 – ABUSING SPORT FOR PROPAGANDA

What could be more symbolic of suffering and mistreatment than the image of small children behind bars? Particularly in reference to Gaza, which is regularly portrayed as a vast 'open air prison'.

For example, The Independent chose to illustrate the story below with an image from AFP/Getty. The caption:

Children join the protest in Gaza City yesterday as Palestinians demanded an end to the siege.

THE INDEPENDENT CHR

THE INDEPENDENT WORLD

A WEEK'S FREE *i*
Click here to claim your evouchers

Blair takes heart from Israeli offer to relax Gaza blockade

By Donald Macintyre in Jerusalem

Monday, 21 June 2010

SHARE | PRINT | EMAIL

Israel was last night forced by concerted international pressure into promising to relax its three-year-old blockade of Gaza by allowing in all goods except those which could be used for military purposes by the Palestinian armed factions.

AFP/GETTY

Children join the protest in Gaza City yesterday as Palestinians demanded an end to the siege

ENLARGE

Get Notifications

Title:	Palestinian Children demonstrate outside
Caption:	Palestinian Children demonstrate outside the industrial area, demanding the opening of the crossings and the ending of the siege on the Gaza Strip in Gaza City on June 20, 2010. AFP PHOTO/MOHAMMED ABED (Photo credit should read MOHAMMED ABED/AFP/Getty Images)

This is but one example of how wire agency photographers resort to using camera angles and staging techniques to present a distorted (and worse) picture of a given situation.In the example above, it is clear that the photographer used this technique to project an image of Gazan children imprisoned. However, the sequence of photos taken from the same scene at the time illustrates how the effect was achieved.

Get Notifications

Title:	Palestinian gather to demonstrate outsid
Caption:	Palestinian gather to demonstrate outside the industrial area, demanding the opening of the crossings and the ending of the siege on the Gaza Strip in Gaza City on June 20, 2010. AFP PHOTO/MOHAMMED ABED (Photo credit should read MOHAMMED ABED/AFP/Getty Images)
Date created:	20 Jun 2010
Editorial image #:	102242765

What we see above is a tiny group of Palestinian children arriving at what appears to be a pre-planned photo op outside the Gaza industrial area presumably organized by Hamas. The photographer either willingly colludes with Hamas or is used.Next, the children have been positioned behind a gate to give the effect of a prison.

Title:	Palestinian Children demonstrate outside
Caption:	Palestinian Children demonstrate outside the industrial area, demanding the opening of the crossings and the ending of the siege on the Gaza Strip in Gaza City on June 20, 2010. AFP PHOTO/MOHAMMED ABED (Photo credit should read MOHAMMED ABED/AFP/Getty Images)

However, using a great deal of skill to get the right position with the right lens from the right angle, the photographer manages to create an impression of many more than the several children in the actual shot.

Get Notifications

The same children appear in the remaining two images from the sequence, again highlighting how the entire event was staged. The same technique of shooting from below and to the side is employed to give the impression that there are actually more people involved than the reality.

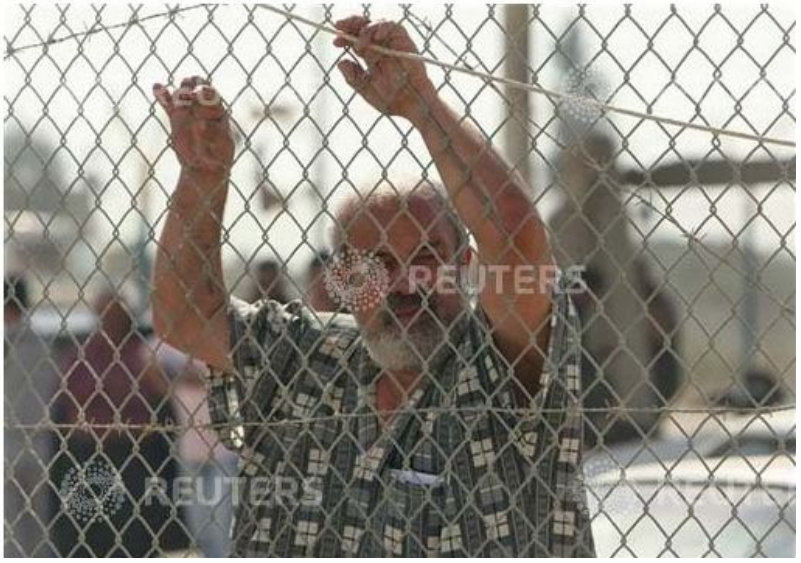
Title: Palestinian Children demonstrate outside

Caption: Palestinian Children demonstrate outside the industrial area, demanding the opening of the crossings and the ending of the siege on the Gaza Strip in Gaza City on June 20, 2010. AFP PHOTO/MOHAMMED ABED (Photo credit should read MOHAMMED ABED/AFP/Getty Images)

Bars and wires were a common theme during the course of this three-month study, some examples of which we have included below.

Get Notifications ×

Palestinians wait to cross to Egypt at the Rafah border crossing
01/06/2010
System ID: RTR2EMRW
Image ID: GM1E6611U9T01
Photographer: REUTERS/Mohammed Salem
Palestinians wait to cross to Egypt at the Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip June 1, 2010. Egypt opened its border with the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, letting Palestinians cross until further notice amid a storm of international criticism of Israel's blockade of the enclave, officials in Egypt and Gaza said. REUTERS/Mohammed Salem (GAZA - Tags: POLITICS IMAGES OF THE DAY)



A Palestinian man waits to cross to Egypt at the Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip
01/06/2010
System ID: RTR2EMTQ
Image ID: GM1E662O0T801
Photographer: REUTERS/Mohammed Salem
A Palestinian man waits to cross to Egypt at the Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip June 1, 2010. Egypt opened its border with the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, letting Palestinians cross until further notice amid a storm of international criticism of Israel's blockade of the enclave, officials in Egypt and Gaza said. REUTERS/Mohammed Salem (GAZA - Tags: POLITICS)

Get Notifications

Palestinians wait at Rafah border crossing in southern Gaza
09/06/2010
System ID: RTR2EXQY
Image ID: GM1E6691N1Z01
Photographer: REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa
Palestinians wait at the Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip after returning from Egypt June 9, 2010. Egypt, which largely closed its Gaza border after the Hamas takeover in 2007, reopened the frontier indefinitely following the Israeli naval raid last week.
REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa (GAZA - Tags: POLITICS CIVIL UNREST)

Palestinians, one holding a passport, stand behind a fence as they wait to cross the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza, southern Gaza Strip, Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Egypt eased its blockade of Gaza after **Israel's** deadly naval raid on an aid flotilla bound for the blockaded Gaza Strip, at the newly opened crossing in the border town of Rafah. About 300 Palestinians left through Gaza's main gateway to the outside world on Wednesday. A smaller number entered Gaza from Egypt and humanitarian aid also came in including blankets, tents and 13 power generators donated by Russia and Oman. (AP Photo/Eyad Baba)

Get Notifications

Palestinian girl Hedayah al-Zanean attends a protest in Gaza City
19/07/2010
System ID: RTR2GJ83
Image ID: GM1E67J1BW401
Photographer: REUTERS/Suhaib Salem
Palestinian girl Hedayah al-Zanean, whose father is jailed in Israel, attends a protest in Gaza City July 19, 2010, calling for the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails. According to Waed, the Palestinian Prisoners Association, about 7,500 Palestinian prisoners are held in Israeli jails. REUTERS/Suhaib Salem (GAZA - Tags: POLITICS CIVIL UNREST)

Palestinian children watch funeral in northern Gaza
21/07/2010
System ID: RTR2GLOX
Image ID: GM1E67M01TR01
Photographer: REUTERS/Suhaib Salem
Palestinian children watch the funeral of Islamic Jihad militant Mohammed al-Kafarnah in the town of Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza July 21, 2010. Israeli shellfire killed al-Kafarnah and wounded seven people, including a 10-year-old girl, in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, Palestinian medical workers and an official with a militant group said. An Israeli military spokeswoman said soldiers opened fire on suspects approaching a border fence but had no further comment. REUTERS/Suhaib Salem (GAZA - Tags: POLITICS CIVIL UNREST)

Get Notifications

A Palestinian man takes part in a protest in Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip
25/07/2010
System ID: RTR2GPLJ
Image ID: GM1E67P1I2B01
Photographer: REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa
A Palestinian man takes part in a protest in Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip, July 25, 2010. Demonstrators are calling for the international community's help in rebuilding houses that were destroyed during the three week offensive that Israel launched in Gaza in December 2008. REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa (GAZA - Tags: POLITICS CIVIL UNREST)

A Palestinian boy holds up a banner referring to captured Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit, during a protest calling for the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails, at the Palestinian side of Erez check point with **Israel**, in Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza Strip, Monday, July 5, 2010. Around 15,000 Israelis marched through th streets of Tel Aviv and a renowned conductor held a concert near Gaza in a show of solidarity Monday with Schalit, held by Palestinian militants for four years. (AP Photo/ Khalil Hamra)

Get Notifications

Palestinian children wait to receive food at a soup kitchen in Hebron
12/08/2010
System ID: RTR2H9YD
Image ID: GM1E68C1MGX01
Photographer: REUTERS/Ammar Awad
Palestinian children wait to receive food, donated by the Islamic endowment authority Islamic waqf, at a soup kitchen in the West Bank city of Hebron August 12, 2010, on the second day of the holy month of Ramadan. Muslims around the world abstain from eating, drinking and sexual relations from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. REUTERS/Ammar Awad (WEST BANK - Tags: RELIGION SOCIETY IMAGES OF THE DAY)

Palestinian children wait to receive food at a soup kitchen in Hebron
12/08/2010
System ID: RTR2H9YB
Image ID: GM1E68C1MNZ01
Photographer: REUTERS/Ammar Awad
Palestinian children wait to receive food, donated by the Islamic endowment authority Islamic waqf, at a soup kitchen in the West Bank city of Hebron August 12, 2010, on the second day of the holy month of Ramadan. Muslims around the world abstain from eating, drinking and sexual relations from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. REUTERS/Ammar Awad (WEST BANK - Tags: RELIGION SOCIETY)

Get Notifications ×

Palestinian children wait to receive food at a soup kitchen in Hebron
12/08/2010
System ID: RTR2H9Y5
Image ID: GM1E68C1MEK01
Photographer: REUTERS/Ammar Awad
Palestinian children wait to receive food, donated by the Islamic endowment authority Islamic waqf, at a soup kitchen in the West Bank city of Hebron August 12, 2010, on the second day of the holy month of Ramadan. Muslims around the world abstain from eating, drinking and sexual relations from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. REUTERS/Ammar Awad (WEST BANK - Tags: RELIGION SOCIETY)

Palestinian children wait to receive food at a soup kitchen in Hebron
12/08/2010
System ID: RTR2H9Y0
Image ID: GM1E68C1M3701
Photographer: REUTERS/Ammar Awad
Palestinian children wait to receive food, donated by the Islamic endowment authority Islamic waqf, at a soup kitchen in the West Bank city of Hebron August 12, 2010, on the second day of the holy month of Ramadan. Muslims around the world abstain from eating, drinking and sexual relations from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. REUTERS/Ammar Awad (WEST BANK - Tags: SOCIETY RELIGION IMAGES OF THE DAY)

× Get Notifications

Title: Palestinian Muslim worshipers wait to c

Caption: Palestinian Muslim worshipers wait to cross the Israeli-controlled Bethlehem checkpoint on the outskirts of the biblical West Bank city, on August 20, 2010 on the way to the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's old city to attend the second Friday prayer of Ramadan amid tight Israeli security. AFP PHOTO/MUSA AL-SHAER (Photo credit should read MUSA AL-SHAER/AFP/Getty Images)

Title: A Palestinian Muslim worshiper woman wal

Caption: A Palestinian Muslim worshiper woman walks on the female side of a checkpoint as men wait on their side (R) to cross the Israeli-controlled Bethlehem checkpoint on the outskirts of the biblical West Bank city, on August 20, 2010 on the way to the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's old city to attend the second Friday prayer of Ramadan amid tight Israeli security. AFP PHOTO/MUSA AL-SHAER (Photo credit should read MUSA AL-SHAER/AFP/Getty Images)

Get Notifications ×

Palestinian men wait to cross into Jerusalem through an Israeli checkpoint in the West Bank town of Bethlehem
20/08/2010
System ID: RTR2HFV1
Image ID: GM1E68K1BLF01
Photographer: REUTERS/Ammar Awad
Palestinian men wait to cross into Jerusalem through an Israeli checkpoint in the West Bank town of Bethlehem during the second Friday of the holy month of Ramadan August 20, 2010. Muslims around the world abstain from eating, drinking and sexual relations from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. REUTERS/Ammar Awad (WEST BANK - Tags: POLITICS IMAGES OF THE DAY RELIGION)

Get Notifications ×

Read the whole of the Shattered Lens series:

CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO THE SHATTERED LENS INTRODUCTION

CLICK HERE TO VIEW PART 1 – THE GAZA FLOTILLA

CLICK HERE TO VIEW PART 2 – ABUSING SPORT FOR PROPAGANDA

CLICK HERE TO VIEW PART 4 – LIGHTING CANDLES, INFLAMING BIAS

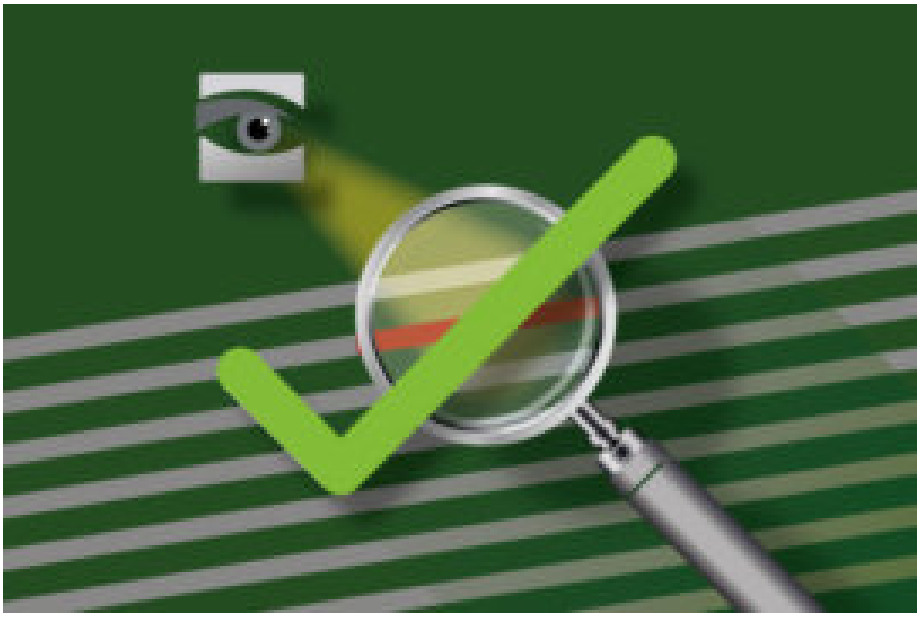
CLICK HERE TO VIEW PART 5 – BRING OUT YOUR DEAD

CLICK HERE TO VIEW PART 6 – PHOTO BIAS IN DEPICTIONS OF THE IDF

AFP/GETTY | BLAIR | GAZA | HONESTREPORTING | IMAGE | INDEPENDENT | PALESTINIANS | PALLYWOOD | PHOTO | PHOTOBIAS | PRESS | TERROR

Honest837Reporting

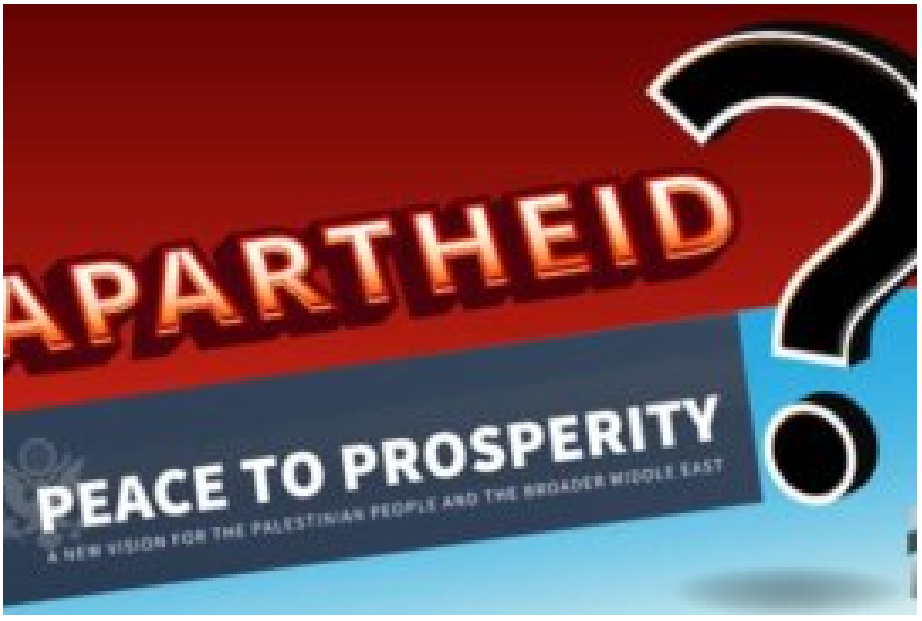
RELATED POSTS



HonestReporting Prompts Double Correction from International Wire Service

× Get Notifications

Palestinian Poverty: Who Isn't Sharing the Wealth?



Foreign Editor Invents Trump Peace Plan as 'Worse Than Apartheid'

0 Comments Sort by **Oldest**

Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin

Get Notifications

HonestReporting
This Holiday Season See the REAL Israel That the Media Don't Report
Israel's Premier Mission
— DECEMBER 18 – 26 —
2019
Click here for more information

× Get Notifications

Tweets by @HonestReporting

HonestReporting
@HonestReporting
Many have been inspired by Herzl's phrase "If you will it, it is no dream" but what's the story behind the roots of Zionism? buff.ly/2XNF3OR

The Roots of Zionism | HonestReporting In Focus
Many young people have been inspired by Herzl's phrase "If yo…
honestreporting.com

47m

HonestReporting
@HonestReporting

Embed View on Twitter

Get Notifications ×

Select Language

Get Notifications

HonestReporting monitors the news for bias, inaccuracy, or other breach of journalistic standards in coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It also facilitates accurate reporting for foreign journalists covering the region. HonestReporting is not aligned with any government or political party or movement.

HONESTREPORTING

Privacy Policy

New Here?

Careers at HonestReporting

Terms of Content Use

Get Notifications